

## **“GREEN SHEET”**

---

**Meeting:** December 7-8, 2007

**Agenda Item 9:** Adopt Chapter 232-13 WAC: Public Conduct in Wildlife Areas and Access Sites Owned or Controlled by the Department of Fish and Wildlife – **Rule Action**

**Repeal WACs – Rule Action**

232-12-174 Domestic animals on department lands

232-12-177 Vehicles using department lands

232-12-184 Aircraft -Authorized use on department lands

232-12-187 Access areas -Other department lands -Wildlife agent to control traffic thereon

232-12-251 Removal of minerals, wood and artifacts from department lands

**Prepared By:** Paul Dahmer

**Presented By:** Steve Pozzanghera, Deputy Assistant Director, Wildlife Program  
Paul Dahmer, Wildlife Area Section Manager, Wildlife Program

---

**Background:**

The Department manages approximately 900,000 acres of land for fish and wildlife and related recreation. Traditionally, most users of these lands have been hunters, fishers, and people watching wildlife. As Washington's population has grown and urban boundaries have expanded, the nature and demand for public use on Department lands has changed significantly. Other recreational users seeking access for new and diverse types of outdoor recreation, including commercial ventures, now join hunters, fishers, and wildlife watchers on Department lands. It has become apparent that a code of conduct is required to ensure the proper use of Department lands and public safety, and to protect fish and wildlife resources.

Five rules are being proposed for repeal. These rules are being replaced with this new Chapter.

---

**Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

Establishing Chapter 232-13 as a new chapter of Title 232 to regulate public conduct in wildlife areas and access sites owned or controlled by the Department.

---

**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

Development of this regulation has been underway for over five years and was first discussed in 2001. It has been reviewed extensively over the last three years with the statewide lands management advisory council and also with individual wildlife area citizen advisory groups. These groups have been integrally involved in the development of these proposed rules providing comments and edits. An earlier version of these recommendations were mailed to approximately 1,400 organizations and individuals in April for their review and consideration. These organizations and individuals were also informed of the opportunity to provide public testimony at the June 1-2, 2007 Commission meeting in Spokane. Based on the volume of comments received, the rules have undergone significant changes. A strikeout version of the WAC was provided at the August 3-4, 2007 Commission meeting in Anacortes. The revised rules were mailed a second time to over 1,400 organizations and individuals including all of the respondents who commented on the first public draft. These organizations and individuals were also informed of the opportunity to provide public testimony at the August 3-4, 2007 Commission meeting in Anacortes. The rules were revised again based on the additional public and Commission comments provided. In early September the rules went out for additional review required as part of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process.

**Action requested**

The Commission will adopt, repeal, or reject these WACs as presented.

---

---

**Draft motion language:**

I move to adopt Chapter 232-13 WAC: Public Conduct in Wildlife Areas and Access Sites Owned or Controlled by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and repeal the following WACs as proposed:

232-12-174 Domestic animals on department lands

232-12-177 Vehicles using department lands

232-12-184 Aircraft -Authorized use on department lands

232-12-187 Access areas -Other department lands -Wildlife agent to control traffic thereon

232-12-251 Removal of minerals, wood and artifacts from department lands

---

**Justification for Commission action:**

With population growth and an ever-increasing demand for recreational opportunities on Department lands, it has become apparent that a code of conduct is required to ensure the proper use of Department lands and public safety, and to protect fish and wildlife resources.